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Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 AID-20 EB-11

COME-00 SCA-01 OMB-01 FAA-00 CAB-09 ACDA-19 TRSE-00

RSR-01 /143 W
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R 101004 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5118
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC
CINCPACREP PHIL
DOD

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DEFENSE FOR DIA ALSO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, RP
SUBJ: US- PHILIPPINE RELATIONS

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN NATIONWIDE TELEVISION/ RADIO DISCUSSION WITH NEWSMEN, PRESIDENT MARCOS STATED THAT RESHAPING OF US- GOP SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP REQUIRED RENEGOTIATION OF OUTSTANDING DEFENSE AND MILITARY BASES PACTS, PREFERABLY IN A PACKAGE DEAL INCLUDING ECONOMIC AND EXTRADITION ARRANGEMENTS. MARCOS NOTED SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION OF PRESENT ARRANGEMENT TO PHIL ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT, BUT SUPPORTED DEVELOPMENT OF INDEPEN-
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DENT PHIL FOREIGN POLICY AND SELF- RELIANCE IN DEFENSE MATTERS. FON SECY ROMULO HARANGUED BRIEFLY BUT UNRESTRAINEDLY ON ADVANTAGES OF EVENTUAL REMOVAL OF THE BASES. TENTATIVE IMPRESSION IS THAT PRESENTATION WAS AIMED AT ESTABLISHING AN IMAGE OF HARDLINE NATIONALISM FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL CONSUMP- TION AND FOR FUTURE BARGAINING WITH US, WITHOUT COMMITTING GOP TO TERMINATING TIES OF GREAT PRACTICAL AND EMOTIONAL VALUE TO PHILIPPINES. END SUMMARY.

1. IN TELEVISION/ RADIO INTERVIEW WITH LOCAL NEWSMEN AND WIRE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES ON MAY 8 PRESIDENT MARCOS DISCUSSED US- PHILIPPINE RELATIONSHIP AT LENGTH . OTHER MAJOR TOPICS INCLUDED SEA REGIONAL OUTLOOK AND PROSPECTS, RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST STATES, AND MUSLIM/ ARAB STATE RELATIONS REPORTED SEPTELS. LOCAL INTEREST APPARENTLY FOCUSED LARGELY ON MARCOS ASSURANCE THAT GOVT WAS CONSIDERING LIBERALIZING TRAVEL LIMITATIONS IMPOSED FOLLOWING MARTIAL LAW.

2. GOP FOREIGN POLICY, ACCORDING MARCOS, CONTINUES TO EMPHASIZE NATIONAL INTERESTS FIRST, BEING A FRIEND TO ALL NATIONS AND AN ENEMY TO NONE. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE DESCRIBED US- PHILIPPINE " SPECIAL RELATIONS" AS UNDER CONTINUING STUDY, ADDING THAT SECRETARY ROGERS' RECENT FOREIGN POLICY REVIEW HAD TAKEN NOTE OF THESE GOP EFFORTS TO FORGE NEW RELATIONSHIP. (FULLER MARCOS COMMENTS ON SECRETARY' S REVIEW, COUPLED WITH OTHER REACTIONS IT ELICITED HERE, BEING REPORTED SEPTEL.)

3. MARCOS STATED THAT WHILE US- PHIL COOPERATIVE RELA- TIONSHIP REMAINED VITAL IT MUST ASSUME NEW FORM APPROPRIATE TO GOP POLICY OF OPENING WINDOWS TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD. THIS REQUIRED RENEGOTIATION OF MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT, MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY, AND MUTUAL DEFENSE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. PREFERABLY, OUTSTANDING ISSUES ON THE MILITARY AGREEMENTS WOULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH A PACKAGE APPROACH WHICH WOULD ALSO DEAL WITH ECONOMIC INTERESTS COVERED BY EXPIRING LAUREL- LANGLEY AGREEMENT, CIVIL AVIATION ARRANGEMENTS AND AND EXTRADITION TREATY.

4. PRESIDENT STATED THAT HE ENVISIONED A THREE STAGE APPROACH WITH NEGOTIATION SUCCESSIVELY AT TECHNICAL, MINISTERIAL AND, ULTIMATELY, " POLITICAL" LEVELS. NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN PROCEEDING FOR SOME TIME, AND MARCOS IMPLIED THESE HAD REACHED MINISTERIAL LEVEL. IN AN ASIDE HE SAID THAT EXTRADITION NEGOTIATIONS HAD

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BEEN TAKEN UP BY TECHNICAL PANELS, ADDING THAT ACTION NOW LAY WITH THE DEPARTMENTS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE (DETAILS REPORTED SEPTEL).

5. MARCOS DECLARED THAT SELF RELIANCE IS KEYSTONE OF PHILIPPINE DEFENSE PLANNING. LESSONS OF HISTORY TAUGHT THAT NATIONS SHOULD NEVER DEPEND UPON AN ALLY FOR SURVIVAL. DURING NEXT TEN YEARS HE FORESAW NO SIGNIFICANT THREAT OF EXTERNAL AGGRESSION, BUT ANTICIPATED INTERNAL SUBVERSION, REBELLION, AND ATTEMPTS TO UNDERMINE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MAJOR PROBLEMS. TO MEET THIS THREAT FILIPINOS MUST EVOLVE THEIR OWN CONCEPTS AND TACTICS AND NATION SEEK PRODUCE ITS OWN ARMAMENTS.

6. MARCOS TOOK DISTINCTLY CAUTIOUS TACK IN REPLYING TO QUESTION REGARDING TERMINATION OF MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT. HE NOTED THAT 1991 TERMINATION DATE COULD BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION BUT SUGGESTED THAT 1991 MIGHT BE QUITE SOON ENOUGH FOR PHILIPPINE INTERESTS. MARCOS COUNSELLED THAT GOP SHOULD STUDY ALL FACTS BEFORE REACHING ANY DECISION. FOREIGN EXCHANGE RECEIPTS FROM BASES WERE 130 MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR AND BASE SPENDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE MIGHT REACH THREE TIMES THAT AMOUNT, NOT TO MENTION THOUSANDS OF FILIPINOS EMPLOYED BY BASES.

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COME-00 SCA-01 OMB-01 FAA-00 CAB-09 ACDA-19 TRSE-00

RSR-01 /143 W
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7. HOWEVER, " IF WE ARE PUSHED TO THE WALL AND THE US CLOSES ALL THESE BASES AS THEY MAY BE PLANNING," MARCOS CONTINUED, HIGHLY SKILLED BASE WORKERS WOULD BE ACCOMMODATED BY GROWING PHILIPPINE INDUSTRIAL BASES. GOP PLANS ALREADY INCLUDE A STEEL FABRICATION COMPLEX AND GOVERNMENT IS HOPING TO PROMOTE TRUCK, AIRCRAFT AND SIMILAR SOPHISTICATED MANUFACTURING ENTERPRISES HERE.

8. WHEN ASKED WHAT WAS MAJOR SOURCE OF IRRITATION IN MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT, MARCOS UNHESITATINGLY SAID, " JURISDICTION," AND INVITED FURTHER COMMENTS BY FOREIGN SECY ROMULO. ROMULO ALSO UNDERLINED CRIMINAL JURISDICTION AS MAIN PROBLEM AND SEIZED OPPORTUNITY TO ASSERT:
(A) THAT BASES " ERODE THE INTEGRITY OF OUR SOVEREIGNTY,"
(B) THAT BASE LANDS COULD BE UTILIZED FOR LAND REFORM PROGRAM, AND
(C) THAT ELIMINATION OF BASES WOULD ENABLE A MORE FLEXIBLE
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PHILIPPINE STANCE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. ALSO, ROMULO CONTINUED, IF SEA ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY IS APPROVED, A PHILIPPINE " NEUTRAL FOREIGN POLICY" (WHICH PRESIDENT MARCOS HASTILY CORRECTED TO " INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY") WOULD REQUIRE THE REMOVAL OF THE BASES. ROMULO CONCLUDED THAT WHILE BASES REMAINED, PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY IS ALWAYS UNDER QUESTION.

9. COMMENT: PRESIDENT' S PRESENTATION OF STATE OF US-RP RELATIONS APPEARED DESIGNED BOTH TO CONVINCE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT GOVERNMENT WAS MOVING ACTIVELY AND VIGOROUSLY TO ASSERT AN INDEPENDENT POLICY AND TO REMIND THEM OF VERY SUBSTANTIAL BENEFITS OF AN ALIGNMENT IN WHICH US HAS BEEN MAJOR FACTOR. DESPITE CRITICAL THOUGH TYPICAL NATURE OF ROMULO CONTRIBUTION, GENERAL TONE OF MARCOS REMARKS IMPLIED GOP INTENTION TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH THE US ALONG PRESENT LINES, WHILE SEEKING A HIGHER POSTURE AND PERHAPS GREATER MATERIAL REWARDS IN THAT HISTORIC ARRANGEMENT.

10. AGAINST THIS MUST BE WEIGHED ROMULO' S OUTBURST AND PRESS TREATMENT OF CONFERENCE, WITH THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILY EXPRESS TAKING A PARTICULARLY VOCIFEROUS LINE IN PROJECTING THE DISMANTLING OF US BASES AS INEVITABLE. TENTATIVE CONCLUSION IS THAT MARCOS SEES SOME ADVANTAGES IN ASSUMING CLEARLY NATIONALISTIC STANCE. THIS COULD BE MEANT TO SERVE (1) AS A COUNTER-

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BALANCE TO HIS HIGHLY- PUBLICIZED EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE FOREIGN INVESTMENT -- TO SERVE AS A SOP TO XENOPHOBIC ELEMENTS WHO WERE HIGHLY VOCAL IN PRE- MARTIAL LAW PERIOD -- AS WELL AS TO AVERAGE PHIL BUSINESSMEN WHO MAY FEEL THREATENED -- AND (2) AS A BARGAINING COUNTER IN FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE US.
HAMILTON

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